

## ABSTRACT

A method is disclosed for configuring a machine vision system over a network, wherein the machine vision system includes a heterogeneous set of vision processors (VPs), and at least one host having a user interface (UI). The method includes the steps of sending VP characteristic information over the network from a VP to a host having a UI; and using the UI to configure the VP via the network. Thus, it is no longer necessary to match a UI with the VP it will connect with, which simplifies installation, configuration, and extension of multiple VP vision systems. The invention also enables a single UI to connect to and configure VPs with substantially different I/O support, communications protocols, and vision functionality.